

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W

-----001010 231635Z /42

P 231547Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6333

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02862

EXDIS

USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WARNKE'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 23,
1978 (SALT TWO-1632)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
WARNKE AT SALT TWO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 1978:

- STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR WARNKE
- FEBRUARY 23, 1978

MR. MINISTER:

I

IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS
MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE MYASISHCHEV
(BISON) AND THE TUPOLEV (BEAR) AIRPLANES. THE UNITED
STATES HAS STUDIED THESE SOVIET STATEMENTS AND WILL
FURTHER ADDRESS THESE ISSUES TODAY.

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II

AS WE UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET POSITION ON MYASISHCHEV
AIRPLANES, SOME HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY DEVELOPED AS HEAVY
BOMBERS WHILE OTHERS WERE SPECIALLY DEVELOPED AS TANKERS.
WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET POSITION TO BE THAT,

ALTHOUGH MYASISHCHEV TANKERS ARE OF THE SAME TYPE AS MYASISHCHEV HEAVY BOMBERS, THEY HAVE OBSERVABLE DIFFERENCES WHICH SHOW THEY CANNOT BE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS AND NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS CAN VERIFY THESE FACTS WITH COMPLETE RELIABILITY.

THE UNITED STATES TAKES ISSUE WITH THIS CONCLUSION. THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT THAT THE MYASISHCHEV AIRPLANES ARE OF THE SAME TYPE AS THOSE LISTED AS HEAVY BOMBERS IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE II OF THE TREATY. THE SOVIET SIDE HAS NOT IDENTIFIED ANY DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE MYASISHCHEV AIRPLANES USED AS TANKERS TO BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THOSE AIRPLANES OF THE SAME TYPE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE MYASISHCHEV TANKERS CANNOT BE USED AS OR READILY CONVERTED TO HEAVY BOMBERS NOR HAS THE SOVIET SIDE IDENTIFIED FEATURES WHICH SO INDICATE. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THOSE FEATURES WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE THE USE OF MYASISHCHEV TANKERS AS HEAVY BOMBERS.

THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS INDICATED IT WOULD BE WILLING TO IDENTIFY IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION THOSE ADDITIONAL FEATURES TO BE GIVEN CURRENT MYASISHCHEV TANKERS WHICH WOULD INDICATE THEY CANNOT BE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS. WE WELCOME THIS RECOGNITION THAT ADDITIONAL FEATURES ARE NECESSARY TO ENABLE NATIONAL

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TECHNICAL MEANS TO CONFIRM THAT CURRENT MYASISHCHEV TANKERS CANNOT BE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS.

THE SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY ARE TO BE DETERMINED IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT BEFORE SUCH PROCEDURES CAN BE DEFINED IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, THE SIDES WILL NEED TO IDENTIFY AND AGREE UPON VERIFIABLE FEATURES WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE MYASISHCHEV TANKERS FROM BEING USED AS OR READILY CONVERTED TO HEAVY BOMBERS. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT UNTIL WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON SUCH FEATURES, MYASISHCHEV TANKERS OF THE SAME TYPE AS MYASISHCHEV HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE III OF THE TREATY. FURTHER, IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES THAT MYASISHCHEV HEAVY BOMBERS WILL REMAIN SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED, DESTROYED OR CONVERTED FOR OTHER PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES AGREED UPON IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION.

- III

WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET TUPOLEV (BEAR) AIRPLANES USED IN AN ANTI-SUBMARINE ROLE, THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS IDENTIFIED EXTERNALLY OBSERVABLE FEATURES WHICH ARE SAID TO "...INDICATE THAT THE MISSION OF THESE AIRPLANES IS TO PERFORM SPECIFIC TASKS IN THE ANTI-SUBMARINE ROLE PECULIAR TO THEM." IN REVIEWING THIS CONTENTION, WE ARE UNABLE TO SEE THE RELEVANCE OF THE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF THE

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

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P 231547Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02862

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FUSELAGE, THE LANDING GEAR HOUSING AND THE RADOME TO THE ISSUE IN QUESTION. INDEED, THERE IS NOTHING INHERENT IN THESE FEATURES WHICH INDICATES, MUCH LESS ASSURES, THAT THESE AIRPLANES CANNOT BE USED IN OR BE READILY CONVERTED TO A HEAVY BOMBER ROLE. IN THIS REGARD, THESE AIRPLANES HAVE BEEN, IN THE WORDS OF THE SOVIET DEFINITION OF BOMBERS, "...SPECIALY BUILT TO BE EQUIPPED WITH BOMBS...." AS A RESULT, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN BE USED IN A HEAVY BOMBER ROLE.

- IV

MR. MINISTER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO THE POINTS I HAVE RAISED TODAY. WARNKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, SPEECHES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA02862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0422
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatnx.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74679ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3509487
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR WARNKE'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 23, 1978 (SALT TWO-1632)
TAGS: PARM, (WARNKE, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74679ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014